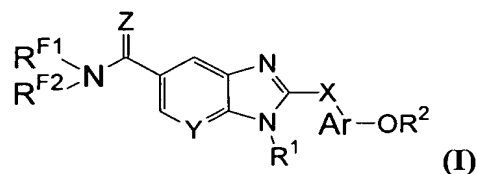


### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

- 5 Claim 1. (original) A compound of formula (I) or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof:



wherein

- $R^{F1}$  and  $R^{F2}$  are independently electron-withdrawing groups;
- 10 Z is selected from O= and S=;
- $R^1$  is selected from  $C_{1-10}$  alkyl;  $C_{1-10}$ alkyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $C_{2-10}$ alkenyl;  $C_{2-10}$ alkenyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $C_{2-10}$ alkynyl;  $C_{2-10}$ alkynyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $R^3R^4$ N-  
15  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4$ NC(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3$ O- $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;  $R^3$ OC(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3$ C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3$ C(=O)NR $^3$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4$ NSO $_2$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3$ CSO $_2$ N( $R^4$ )- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4$ NC(=O)N( $R^5$ )- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4$ NSO $_2$ N( $R^5$ )- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; aryl-C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocyclyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocyclyl-C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted aryl-C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted heterocyclyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  
20 substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; and  $C_{1-10}$ hydrocarbylamino;
- $R^2$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, and  $C_{5-6}$ heteroaryl, and substituted  $C_{5-6}$ heteroaryl;
- 25  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are independently selected from -H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, and a divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group that together with another divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group forms a portion of a ring;
- X is a  $C_{1-10}$  divalent group that separates groups connected thereto by one or two atoms;

Ar is a C<sub>4-12</sub> divalent aromatic group; and

Y is selected from –CH= and –N=.

Claim 2. (original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

5 R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are independently C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted by one or more groups selected from -F, -Cl, -Br, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -OH, -CHO, -C(=O)-R' and -OR', wherein R' is a C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl.

Claim 3. (original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein

10 R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are independently selected from -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CHF<sub>2</sub>, -CHFCH<sub>2</sub>F, -CHFCHF<sub>2</sub>, -CHFCH<sub>2</sub>F, -CF<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -CF<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CF<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>F, -CF<sub>2</sub>CHF<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CCl<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CHCl<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CB<sub>2</sub>Br, -CH<sub>2</sub>CHBr<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CN, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CN, and -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>.

15 Claim 4. (original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are independently C<sub>1-6</sub> groups that comprise at least 30% fluorine by weight and Z is O=.

Claim 5. (original) The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-10</sub> alkyl; C<sub>1-10</sub>alkyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano,

20 acetoxymethyl and nitro; C<sub>2-10</sub>alkenyl; C<sub>2-10</sub>alkenyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro; C<sub>2-10</sub>alkynyl; C<sub>2-10</sub>alkynyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro; R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>N-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>NC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>O-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>OC(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>C(=O)NR<sup>3</sup>-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>NSO<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>CSO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>4</sup>)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>NC(=O)N(R<sup>5</sup>)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; 25 R<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>NSO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>5</sup>)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; aryl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; aryl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; substituted aryl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; substituted aryl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; substituted heterocyclyl-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; substituted heterocyclyl-C(=O)-C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and C<sub>1-10</sub>hydrocarbylamino;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl substituted by at least one fluorine, 30 C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl substituted by at least one fluorine, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl substituted by at least one fluorine, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, and C<sub>5-6</sub>heteroaryl, and substituted C<sub>5-6</sub>heteroaryl;

$R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are independently selected from -H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, and a divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group that together with another divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group forms a portion of a ring; and

X is selected from  $-NR^6-$ ,  $-C(=O)-$ ,  $-CH_2-CH_2-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$ ,  $-O-$ ,  $-C(R^6)(R^7)-$ ,  
5 and  $-S(O)_n-$ , wherein n is 0, 1 or 2, wherein  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are independently  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, -OH, or -H.

Claim 6. (original) A compound according to Claim 1,  
wherein:

10  $R^1$  is selected from  $C_{1-8}$ alkyl;  $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl;  $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl; aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl with the aryl substituted by at least one group selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, acetoxymethyl, nitro and halogen;  $R^8R^9NC_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^8OC_{1-6}$ alkyl; cycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocycloalkyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl with the  
heterocycloalkyl thereof substituted by at least one group selected from  $C_{1-8}$ alkyl,  
15 acetoxymethyl, nitro and halogen;  $C_{1-6}$ alkylaryl;  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl- $C(=O)-$ ;  $C_{6-8}$ aryl- $C(=O)-$ ;  $C_{4-8}$ heteroaryl- $C(=O)-$ ; heteroaryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heteroaryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl with the heteroaryl thereof substituted by at least one group selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, acetoxymethyl, nitro and halogen; and  $R^N C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$R^2$  is selected from  $-CH_3$ ,  $-CH_2CH_3$ ,  $-CH(CH_3)_2$ ,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl,  $-CH_2CF_3$ ,  
20  $-CHF_2$ ,  $-CF_3$  and aryl;

$R^N$  is an oxidized pyridyl wherein the nitrogen atom on the pyridyl ring is in an oxidized state ( $N^+-O^-$ );

Ar is selected from an arylene; an heteroarylene; an arylene substituted by at least one group selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro,  
25 hydroxy and  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy; and an heteroarylene substituted by at least one group selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy and  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy; and

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are independently selected from -H and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl.

30 Claim 7. (original) The compound according to claim 6,

wherein the arylene is *para*-arylene; and the heteroarylene is selected from six-membered ring *para*-heteroarylene and five-membered ring *meta*-heteroarylene.

Claim 8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1,  
wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from ethyl, propyl, allyl, isopentyl, benzyl, dimethylaminoethyl,  
4-pyridylmethyl, 2-pyridylmethyl, 1-pyrrolylethyl, cyclopropylmethyl,  
5 cyclobutylmethyl, cyclopentylmethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-pyrrolidylmethyl, 3-  
pyrrolidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidylmethyl, N-methyl-3-pyrrolidylmethyl, 2-  
piperidylmethyl, 3-piperidylmethyl, 4-piperidylmethyl, N-methyl-2-piperidylmethyl,  
N-methyl-3-piperidylmethyl, N-methyl-4-piperidylmethyl, 3-thienylmethyl, 2-  
tetrahydrofuranylmethyl, 3-tetrahydrofuranylmethyl, 2-tetrahydropyranylmethyl,  
10 3-tetrahydropyranylmethyl, 4-tetrahydropyranylmethyl, (2-nitrothiophene-5-  
yl)methyl, (1-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)methyl, (5-(acetoxymethyl)-2-  
furanylmethyl, (2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindole-1-yl)methyl, and 5-(2-methylthiazolyl);

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, CF<sub>3</sub>, cyclopropyl,  
cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and phenyl;

15 R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub> and Z is O=;

Ar is selected from a *para*-arylene; a *para*-arylene substituted with C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl,  
halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy; a six-membered ring  
*para*-heteroarylene; and a six-membered ring *para*-heteroarylene substituted with a  
group selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy and  
20 C<sub>1-6</sub>alkoxy.

Claim 9. (original) A compound according to Claim 1,  
wherein:

R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are -CH<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, and Z is O=;

25 R<sup>2</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>;

Ar is selected from *para*-phenylene and *para*-pyridylene; and

X is selected from -CH<sub>2</sub>- and -CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)-

Claim 10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is  
30 selected from:

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-(3-methylbutyl)-N,N-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1H-  
benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

1-(Cyclopropylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

1-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-  
5 benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-(2-furanylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(2*S*)-2-pyrrolidinylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

10 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(2*R*)-2-pyrrolidinylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[1-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-  
15 benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[[2*R*]-tetrahydro-2-furanyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

20 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[[2*S*]-tetrahydro-2-furanyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-2-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[(2*R*)-2-piperidinylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;  
25

2-[(5-Ethoxy-2-pyridyl)methyl]-1-[(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(5-Ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1-(3-methylbutyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

5 2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[[*(2R)*-1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(4-Ethoxyphenyl)methyl]-1-[[*(2R)*-1-methyl-2-piperidinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

10 2-[(5-Ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1-[(*2R*)-2-pyrrolidinylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[1-(4-Ethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-[(*2R*)-2-pyrrolidinylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(5-Ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1-[[*(2R)*-1-methyl-2-piperidinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

15 2-[(5-Ethoxy-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1-[[*(2R)*-1-methyl-2-pyrrolidinyl]methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

1-(Cyclobutylmethyl)-2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

20 1-(Cyclobutylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

1-(Cyclopentylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-1-[(*2S*)-piperidin-2-ylmethyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

25 2-[(5-Ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-1-(3-furylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-[(5-Ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-1-(3-thienylmethyl)-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)-  
1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

1-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

5 1-(Cyclohexylmethyl)-2-[(5-isopropoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-1-[(4-methylmorpholin-3-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

10 2-[(5-Ethoxypyridin-2-yl)methyl]-1-[(4-methylmorpholin-3-yl)methyl]-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-Ethoxybenzyl)-1-{[(2*S*)-1-methylpiperidin-2-yl]methyl}-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

2-(4-Isopropoxybenzyl)-1-{[(2*R*)-1-methylpiperidin-2-yl]methyl}-*N,N*-bis(2,2,2-  
trifluoroethyl)-1*H*-benzimidazole-5-carboxamide;

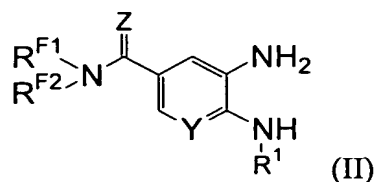
15 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claims 11-14. (canceled)

20 Claim 15. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a  
compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable  
carrier.

25 Claim 16. (currently amended) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded  
animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a  
therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of claims 1-10~~.

Claim 17. (original) A method of producing a compound comprising the step of  
reacting a compound represented by formula (II) with R<sup>2</sup>OArXCOA:



wherein

$R^{F1}$  and  $R^{F2}$  are independently electron-withdrawing groups;

Z is selected from O= and S=;

5  $R^1$  is selected from  $C_{1-10}$  alkyl;  $C_{1-10}$ alkyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $C_{2-10}$ alkenyl;  $C_{2-10}$ alkenyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $C_{2-10}$ alkynyl;  $C_{2-10}$ alkynyl substituted by at least one of halogen, cyano, acetoxymethyl and nitro;  $R^3R^4N$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4NC(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3O$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3OC(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3C(=O)$ -  
 10  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3C(=O)NR^3$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4NSO_2$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3CSO_2N(R^4)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4NC(=O)N(R^5)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;  $R^3R^4NSO_2N(R^5)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; aryl- $C(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocyclyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; heterocyclyl- $C(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted aryl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted aryl- $C(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted heterocyclyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; substituted heterocyclyl- $C(=O)$ - $C_{1-6}$ alkyl; and  $C_{1-10}$ hydrocarbylamino;

15  $R^2$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, substituted  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl, substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, substituted  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl,  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, substituted  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, and  $C_{5-6}$ heteroaryl, and substituted  $C_{5-6}$ heteroaryl;

20  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are independently selected from -H,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkenyl,  $C_{2-6}$ alkynyl, and a divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group that together with another divalent  $C_{1-6}$ group forms a portion of a ring;

X is a  $C_{1-10}$ divalent group that separates groups connected thereto by one or two atoms;

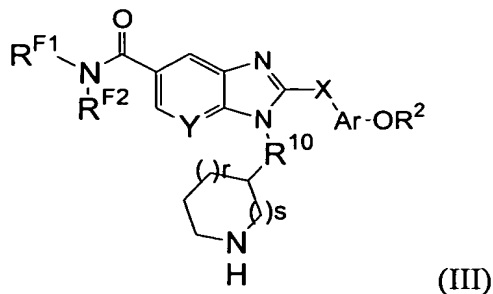
A is selected from -OH, -Cl, -Br, and -I;

25 Ar is a  $C_{4-12}$  divalent aromatic group; and

Y is selected from -CH= and -N=.

Claim 18. (original) A method of producing a compound comprising the step of reacting a compound represented by formula (III) with formaldehyde:





wherein

r and s are selected from 0, 1 and 2;

R<sup>10</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkylene, -O-, and -NR<sup>11</sup>-, wherein R<sup>11</sup> is a C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

5 R<sup>F1</sup> and R<sup>F2</sup> are independently electron-withdrawing groups;

X is a C<sub>1-10</sub>divalent group that separates groups connected thereto by one or two atoms;

Ar is a C<sub>4-12</sub>divalent aromatic group;

10 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, substituted C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, substituted C<sub>2-6</sub>alkynyl, C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, substituted C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, and C<sub>5-6</sub>heteroaryl, and substituted C<sub>5-6</sub>heteroaryl; and

Y is selected from -CH= and -N=.

15 Claim 19. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 8 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 20. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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Claim 21. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25 Claim 22. (new) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 8.

Claim 23. (new) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 9.

- 5    Claim 24. (new) A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 10.

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